

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## GIRL SCOUTS

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 90 years of Girl Scouting.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues have also chosen to celebrate and espouse the accomplishments of this time-honored organization.

Once a Girl Scout myself, I proudly support the cultural, political, social, and economic advancements of the millions of girls across the nation.

Girl Scouts of the USA instills young women and girls with a balanced set of values and varied skills, beneficial to the development of every girl who is often vulnerable during these early stages of growth.

Girl Scouting empowers girls to rise to their full potential and relate positively to others.

In addition, the organization creates a foundation for sound decision-making so that these girls may confront society head on and contribute to it.

Not only is Girl Scouting a positive experience for its members, but the organization's advocacy on the national level in building solid communities enabled the Girl Scouts to create a research institute.

With the help of government funding the Girl Scouts have addressed such issues as violence prevention and the digital divide with activities that encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

In my district, the Girl Scouts of Tres Condados number 15,000 members strong.

I am proud to report that two of these young girls were recently awarded Lifesaving Medals of Honor.

The last time these Girl Scouts medals were awarded was 16 years ago.

Nine-year old Lindsey Papa received the award after saving her brother in a boating accident. While others were trying to free the boy from the boat propeller, Lindsey hit the switch that shut off the engine, saving her brother's life.

And amazingly, seven-year old Courtney Harmon received the award when she performed the heimlich maneuver on her classmate saving the classmate's life.

We can undeniably give some credit to the Girl Scouts for training Courtney in First Aid and CPR. Courtney exemplifies how invaluable a First Aid and CPR education can be for children and in schools.

And we can also attribute Lindsey's ability to make sensible decisions under pressure to her Girl Scout experiences.

The remarkable acts of these two young girls are a testament to the objectives of the Girl Scouts.

There are more than 233,000 troops and groups throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. And over 300 local Girl Scout councils offer the opportunity for Girl Scout membership.

I have always encouraged students—males, and young females especially—to get involved in issues that are of importance to them in their communities.

No other organization provides all girls everywhere with the tools and resources entirely favorable to their upbringing.

Girl Scouts is an outlet accessible to all girls, with links to an endless array of possibilities, expression and creativity.

I know the Girl Scouts of the USA will well outlive this 90-year anniversary and continue to be a positive and significant societal influence for centuries to come.

## TRIBUTE TO NORM HOFFMAN

### HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize my friend and former colleague, Norm Hoffman, who was killed in a road accident one year ago today.

Bakersfield suffered a significant loss with the death of Norm Hoffman. Norm was an extraordinary man in many ways, and he left his mark deep on the Bakersfield community. The Bakersfield City Council has officially designated March 16 as Norm Hoffman Day, and this Saturday, Norm will also be honored by the dedication of a memorial on the Bakersfield College campus where he was a beloved teacher to hundreds of students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Norm was a dedicated athlete and fitness enthusiast. He was distinguished early by his athletic ability, but didn't find his real love, cycling, until later in life. As a college student, Norm was the NCAA champion in the half-mile at Oregon State and only a hamstring injury kept him from competing for a spot on the 1964 Olympic Team. In the 1970's, Norm took up and excelled at bodybuilding, winning the Mr. Kern County abdominal muscle group award and bulking up to 260 pounds. However, he found his greatest athletic success and enjoyment when he began cycling after age 40.

The list of Norm's successes in cycling go on and on: four-time national champion in the 40 kilometer time trials; three national and world records; and consideration for a place on the 1988 Olympic time trials team at age 46. The most important of his achievements; however, is also his legacy: a whole generation of local cyclists who were inspired to take up the sport from his example. Norm's influence on the community is clearly visible. Chances are that most of the many cyclists you'll see on the bike path on Saturday morning owe their involvement in the sport to Norm Hoffman.

Norm was a familiar sight to many of us in Bakersfield, as he cycled to and from Bakersfield College greeting his many friends with a wide grin. His determination, vitality, bound-

less energy and dedication to others are devoutly missed, but despite his absence, Norm continues to serve as an inspiration and as a role model to the many people who knew his indomitable spirit.

## GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago, in Savannah, Georgia, Juliette Gordon Low formed an organization for girls. The original Girl Scout troop consisted of 18 girls from the Savannah community. Today, the Girl Scout organization has grown to include more than 3.7 million current members, and more than 50 million girls and women have at one time or another been members of the Girl Scouts of America.

The Girl Scouts of America was recognized by this body in 1950 by a Congressional Charter. Today, they are part of a global family that serves more than 140 nations and has more than 10 million members.

While we all are familiar with Girl Scout Cookies, what many people are not aware of is the diverse make-up of Girl Scout Troops in this nation and around the world. Currently in the United States there are more than 233,000 troops meeting in homes, churches, schools and community centers. Nearly one million adults volunteer serve as leaders to teach girls self-confidence and skills, and to encourage them to think creatively and to act with integrity.

In addition to conventional troops, Girl Scouts meet in detention centers, and group homes. They meet, in homeless shelters, and in migrant farm camps, and some meet via the Internet. The goal is to allow as many girls as possible to develop their full potential; relate positively with others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and to contribute to society.

In a day and age of less-than-positive role models, it is vital that our young people have the opportunity to grow and be influenced by positive mentors, and to learn skills that will help them to be productive and conscientious members of society.

The Girl Scouts have established a research institute, work to address violence prevention, and are encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

I am proud the Girl Scouts began in my home state. I am proud one of my granddaughters is a Girl Scout. I am proud of the contributions this fine group has made to the nation and to the world. Congratulations to the Girl Scouts of America on their 90th birthday. I wish them many more years of service in the fulfillment of their mission to nurture girls and help them build character and skills for success.

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